

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1766

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 2721

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AR, UY, US

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT REGARDING ZELMAR MICHELINI

1. LEST SOMEONE BE MISLED, I WISH HERE TO CLEAR UP A DISCREPANCY IN THE SENTENCE IN PARA 2 OF MONTEVIDEO 2270 WHICH STATES: "MOREOVER, I DID NOT AT ANY TIME DISCUSS IN ANY MANNER WITH GOU OFFICIALS THESE INDIVIDUALS OR THEIR STATUS." WHEN MADE, THAT WAS MY BEST RECOLLECTION, AS SUPPORTED BY A POLITICAL SECTION SEARCH OF OUR FILES WHICH DISCLOSED NOTHING TO THE CONTRARY.

2. UPON FURTHER RESEARCH WE HAVE NOW DISCOVERED MONTEVIDEO 1165 OF APRIL 9, 1975 WHICH REPORTED THAT A POLITICAL OFFICER, REPLYING TO A COLORADO PARTY OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT DEPLORING SENATOR KENNEDY'S REPORTED INVITATION TO MICHELINI, EXPLAINED THAT A US SENATOR IS FREE TO INVITE WHOMEVER HE WISHED. PARA 3 OF THE SAME MESSAGE STATES "SUB-SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MICHELIN ASKED THE AMBASSADOR IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIP AND VARIOUS URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS HAVE RAISED THE SAME SUBJECT." THE REASON THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN RAISED, APPARENTLY, WAS THAT LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, (AS REPORTED IN MONTEVIDEO 1112 OF APRIL 4, 1975) HAD BEEN PROMINENTLY REPORTING AND CRITICIZING AN ALLEGED INVITATION BY SENATOR KENNEDY.

3. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR FROM THE ROUTINE MENTION OF SUB-SECRETARY MICHELIN'S QUESTION TO ME THAT IT AMOUNTED TO THAT AND NOTHING MORE. HAD THERE BEEN ANY DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANCE, OR HAD I
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HAD OR GIVEN HIM ANY INFORMATION, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN

PRECISE DETAIL. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE OVERSIGHT IN OUR REPORT DOES NOT IN ANY WAY ALTER THE TRUTH OF THE POINT WE WERE MAKING; A FLAT, CATEGORIC DENIAL OF FERREIRA ALDUNATE'S CHARGE THAT THE US AMBASSADOR HAD INFORMED THE GOU THAT MICHELINI APPLIED FOR A VISA, WHEREUPON THE GOU CANCELLED HIS PAPERS AND LEFT HIM STRANDED IN ARGENTINA. AS THE SEQUENCE SHOWS, THE URUGUAYAN PRESS WAS PROMINENTLY REPORTING THE TRIP SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE MICHELIN MADE HIS INQUIRY. MOREOVER, BUENOS AIRES TELEGRAM 2425 DATED APRIL 9, 1975 REPORTED THAT THE URUGUAYAN COUNSELLOR HAD INFORMED THE EMBASSY ON APRIL 7 THAT "HIS EMBASSY HAD TOLD THE GOA THAT MICHELIN'S PASSPORT AHD BEEN CANCELLED." OBVIOUSLY, SINCE THE CANCELLATION TOOK PLACE DAYS BEFORE SUB-SECRETARY MICHELIN'S QUERY TO ME, THIS QUERY COULD NOT HAVE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CANCELLATION.

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